

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-5 (cancelled).

6. (new) A protective circuit for an analog sensor coupled to a supply voltage line, a ground line and a sensor output line, the protective circuit comprising:

a first transistor interposed in the supply voltage line;

a second transistor interposed in the ground line;

a control connection of each transistor being coupled to a respective voltage divider situated between the supply voltage line and the ground line;

wherein the first and second transistors are switched through under normal operation and are switched-off at least when the ground line is interrupted; and

a pull-down resistor coupling the sensor output line with a ground potential, which ground potential is independent of the ground line.

7. (new) The protective circuit according to claim 6, further comprising:

a housing in which the analog sensor is arranged;

a control unit in which the pull-down resistor is arranged outside the housing of the analog sensor; and

wherein the pull-down resistor is arranged between a measuring input and the ground potential of the control unit.

8. (new) The protective circuit according to claim 6, wherein the first and second transistors are MOSFET transistors.

9. (new) The protective circuit according to claim 7, wherein the first and second transistors are MOSFET transistors.

10. (new) The protective circuit according to claim 8, wherein the second transistor is operated in an inverse manner.

11. (new) The protective circuit according to claim 9, wherein the second transistor is operated in an inverse manner.

12. (new) The protective circuit according to claim 6, further comprising:

a diode switched in a transmitting direction from the supply voltage line to the ground line connected in the voltage divider to which the control connection of the first transistor interposed in the supply voltage line is connected.

13. (new) The protective circuit according to claim 7, further comprising:

a diode switched in a transmitting direction from the supply voltage line to the ground line connected in the voltage divider to which the control connection of the first transistor interposed in the supply voltage line is connected.